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**Consumer Price Index
Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN
First Half 2001 Semiannual Averages**

The Consumer Price Index for the Cincinnati-Hamilton metropolitan area increased 0.4 percent during the 1st half of 2001. This was below the 1.4 percent increase recorded the 1st half of 2000 and the 1.2 percent increase recorded during the same period in 1999. The Cincinnati-Hamilton Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the 1st half of 2001 was 167.2 (1982-84=100), a 2.6 percent increase from the 1st half of 2000. This compares with a 3.4 percent annual increase recorded a year ago.

According to BLS Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein in Chicago, rising shelter costs, higher prices for restaurant meals (food away from home), and more expensive utility natural gas service had the greatest impact on the overall index. Also contributing, but to a lesser degree, were increases in the components for medical care, recreation, and education and communication. Partially offsetting these increases were lower prices for electricity and declines in the apparel and other goods and services components.

During the 1st half of 2001, the housing component fell 0.4 percent due to a 13.2 percent drop in the price of electricity and a 1.8 percent fall in the household furnishings and operations index. Partially offsetting these declines was a 1.0 percent increase in the shelter index. For the year, the housing component rose 2.7 percent, similar to the 2.6 percent rise recorded from the 1st half 1999 to the 1st half of 2000.

The food and beverages component rose 1.5 percent during the 1st half of 2000. This increase was due to a 3.0 percent jump in the food away from home index which was partially offset by a decline of 0.4 percent in the more heavily weighted food at home index (grocery food items). The alcoholic beverages component increased 0.4 percent. For the year, the food and beverages component was up 3.7 percent. This was greater than the 2.3 percent average 1st half to 1st half increase recorded since 1996.

During the 1st half of 2001 the transportation component rose 0.9 percent. The private transportation index gained 0.7 percent, led by a 1.1 percent six month

increase in gasoline prices. Comparing the 1st half of this year to the 1st half of last year, gasoline prices were up 0.4 percent. During the same period in 2000, gasoline prices soared 39.5 percent. For the year, the overall transportation component gained 1.8 percent after jumping 6.9 percent between the 1st half of 1999 and the 1st half of 2000.

The medical care component rose 2.2 percent during the 1st half of 2001 and was 5.5 percent higher than a year ago. This annual increase was below the 8.5 percent annual gain experienced between the 1st half of 1999 and the 1st half of 2000.

The recreation component rose 1.1 percent during the 1st six months of 2001, a larger increase than the 0.1 percent experienced during the 1st half of 2000. For the year, recreation costs were up 1.7 percent.

The component for education and communication rose 1.5 percent during the 1st half of 2001 and was 1.7 percent higher than a year ago. This compares to previous 1st half to 1st half drops in the index of 0.3 percent in 1999 and 0.4 in 2000.

The volatile apparel component dropped 2.9 percent during the 1st half of 2001 but was 1.8 percent higher than a year ago. This annual increase follows a decline of 3.8 percent in 2000 and a 1.3 percent drop in 1999.

The other goods and services component fell 0.2 percent during the 1st half of 2001 and was 0.9 percent higher than the first half of 2000. This component, which includes tobacco and smoking products, has recorded average 1st-half to 1st half gains of 7.0 percent since 1995.

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CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U. S. City Average and for the Cincinnati area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI HOTLINE service. This recorded message also provides percent change from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The HOTLINE number in Cincinnati is (513) 684-2349.

BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 280 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 30 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880, select menu option 1, and when prompted, order document 1000.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 80 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 85 urban areas across the country from about 57,000 housing units and approximately 19,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 85 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the five largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain utility rates, some fuel prices, and certain other items.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 27 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities, they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The index measures price change from a designated reference date- 1982-84- which equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: The price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, Chapter 17, April 1997, and "The Consumer Price Index.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2001 from—	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000
Expenditure category					
All items	163.0	166.6	167.2	2.6	0.4
All items (1967=100)	504.5	515.3	517.4	-	-
Food and beverages	154.7	158.2	160.5	3.7	1.5
Food	152.9	156.5	158.9	3.9	1.5
Food at home	151.3	157.6	156.9	3.7	-4
Food away from home	156.0	157.6	162.3	4.0	3.0
Alcoholic beverages	174.4	175.4	176.1	1.0	.4
Housing	155.8	160.6	160.0	2.7	-.4
Shelter	178.4	181.9	183.7	3.0	1.0
Rent of primary residence	172.1	175.2	179.3	4.2	2.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	181.0	184.5	185.9	2.7	.8
Fuels and utilities	126.4	138.0	130.7	3.4	-5.3
Fuels	115.7	124.1	116.0	.3	-6.5
Gas (piped) and electricity	120.3	129.4	119.6	-.6	-7.6
Electricity	124.8	132.6	115.1	-7.8	-13.2
Utility natural gas service	111.9	131.9	176.4	57.6	33.7
Household furnishings and operations	123.5	125.4	123.1	-.3	-1.8
Apparel	124.2	130.2	126.4	1.8	-2.9
Transportation	148.2	149.5	150.8	1.8	.9
Private transportation	147.0	148.8	149.8	1.9	.7
Motor fuel	141.2	140.2	141.7	.4	1.1
Gasoline (all types)	140.8	139.8	141.3	.4	1.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	145.1	143.7	145.1	.0	1.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	140.4	139.9	141.0	.4	.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	127.2	126.8	127.1	-.1	.2
Medical care	249.9	257.9	263.7	5.5	2.2
Recreation ⁴	105.7	106.3	107.5	1.7	1.1
Education and communication ⁴	98.7	98.9	100.4	1.7	1.5
Other goods and services	293.6	296.7	296.1	.9	-.2
Commodity and service group					
All items	163.0	166.6	167.2	2.6	.4
Commodities	143.4	145.8	145.9	1.7	.1
Commodities less food and beverages	136.2	138.2	137.1	.7	-.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	141.3	145.2	143.3	1.4	-1.3
Durables	132.4	132.2	132.1	-.2	-.1
Services	184.9	189.5	190.8	3.2	.7
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	158.4	161.7	162.2	2.4	.3
All items less shelter	158.6	162.0	162.4	2.4	.2
Commodities less food	137.7	139.6	138.6	.7	-.7
Nondurables	148.6	152.4	152.5	2.6	.1
Nondurables less food	143.6	147.4	145.6	1.4	-1.2
Services less rent of shelter ¹	196.5	201.8	202.9	3.3	.5
Services less medical care services	178.6	182.8	183.8	2.9	.5
Energy	126.0	130.9	126.4	.3	-3.4
All items less energy	169.3	172.3	173.8	2.7	.9
All items less food and energy	173.5	176.4	177.7	2.4	.7

¹ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

² Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

³ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.